In the claims:

Please cancel claims 78-82 and 212.

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

C2

41. (Amended) A system for processing financial institution documents comprising:

a multitude of compact image processing units communicatively coupled together to form a network, each of the image processing units comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving financial institution documents;

an image scanner;

a discrimination unit;

a transport mechanism coupled to the input receptacle adapted to receive the documents from the input receptacle and transport the documents past the image scanner and the discrimination unit;

an output receptacle adapted to receive the documents from the transport mechanism after the documents have been transported past the image scanner and discrimination unit;

C2
Continued

the image scanner being adapted to obtain images of the documents, the scanner further being adapted to optically recognize fields within the documents and to automatically extract information from the fields;

the discrimination unit including an authenticator adapted to automatically determine the authenticity of the documents; and

an interface adapted to automatically communicate with an outside accounting system, the outside accounting system being adapted to update financial accounts associated with the documents substantially immediately without human intervention.

C3

44. (Amended) The system of claim 41, further comprising a communications panel adapted to communicate operational instructions to a user.

45. (Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the outside accounting system is adapted for storing, tracking, and analyzing the information transmitted over the network from the image processing units.

49. (Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the multitude of units are located at teller windows.

51. (Amended) A system for processing financial institution documents comprising:

a multitude of image processing units communicatively coupled together to form a network, the units processing financial institution documents deposited by users, each of the units comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving financial institution documents;

an image scanner;

a transport mechanism coupled to the input receptacle adapted to receive the documents from the input receptacle and transport the documents past the image scanner;

an output receptacle adapted to receive the documents from the transport mechanism after being transported past the image scanner;

the image scanner being adapted to obtain images of the documents, the scanner further being adapted to optically

recognize fields within the documents and to automatically extract information from the fields; and

an interface adapted to communicate the information contained in selected areas of the document to an outside accounting system wherein financial accounts associated with the documents are processed automatically substantially immediately.

56. (Amended) The system of claim 51, further comprising a teller window monitor coupled to the image processing unit.

Please add the following new claims:

215. (New) A financial institution document processing network, comprising:

a plurality of document imaging devices, each such device adapted to: receive a stack of documents, image each document in the stack, determine a monetary value associated with each document, and output the document images and associated monetary values;

a financial institution accounting system operating to receive the document images and associated monetary values and

update a financial account associated with the stack of documents in view of the associated monetary values; and

a data communications network interconnecting the plurality of document imaging devices to the financial institution accounting system.

216. (New) The network of claim 215 further including a memory associated with the accounting system for storing the document images.

217. (New) The network of claim 215 wherein the data communications network is a local area network (LAN).

218. (New) The network of claim 217 wherein the LAN utilizes a common bus architecture.

219. (New) The network of claim 217 wherein the LAN utilizes a ring topology.

220. (New) The network of claim 217 wherein the LAN utilizes a star topology.

221. (New) The network of claim 215 further including a cluster controller for interfacing the plurality of document imaging devices and the financial institution accounting system through the data communications network.

222. (New) The network of claim 215 wherein the data communications network comprises a first network associated with document imaging device communications and a second network associated with financial institution accounting system communications, the network further including a gateway to interconnect the first and second networks.

223. (New) The network of claim 215 wherein the stack of documents includes mixed checks and currency bills, each document imaging device operating to image the checks and currency bills, process the check images to determine check value, denominate the currency bills to determine bill value, and output the determined check and bill values with the output document images.